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424 REPORTS

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OF THE

SELECTMEN,

TREASURER,

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF HARRISVILLE,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1st,

1872.



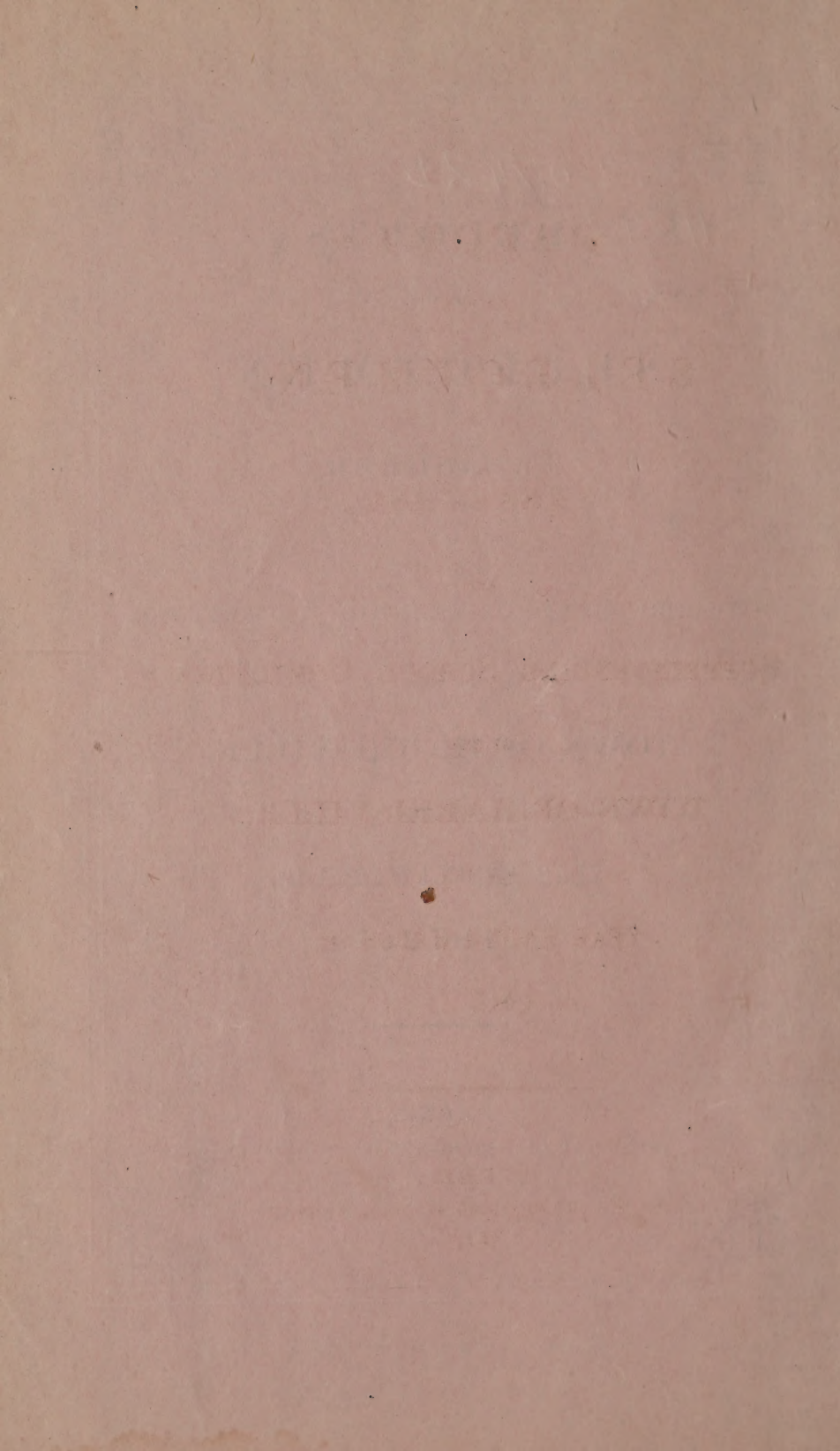
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1872.



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SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

THE Selectmen submit the following Report of the financial affairs of the Town:

Total Valuation April, 1871,	\$ 364,254 00
Money tax assessed,	4,844 27
Highway tax,	508 20
No. 8 School-house tax,	102 44
No. of Dogs, 46, tax,	53 00

LIABILITIES.

Outstanding Notes,	\$9086 69
Unpaid Interest,	269 42
Outstanding Treasury Orders,	28 62
	<hr/>
	\$9,384 73

ASSETS.

Outstanding Taxes, 1870,	\$189 89
" " 1871,	392 48
Harrisville's portion of State Bonds due from the State to the Town of Dublin,	4277 00
Harrisville's portion of State Bonds due from the State to the Town of Nelson,	1590 75
Cash balance in Treasury,	315 31
	<hr/>
	\$ 6,765 43
	<hr/>
Total Indebtedness,	\$2,619 30

We would recommend to be raised by tax, the ensuing year, the following sums :

To pay State Tax,	\$ 750 00
To pay County Tax,	688 66
For the support of Schools the ensuing year.	900 00
To pay Town Debt and Interest,	1500 00
To Defray Town Charges,	500 00
	<hr/>
	\$4,338 66
To Repair Highways in Summer,	\$ 800 00

Respectfully submitted,

DARIUS FARWELL,	} <i>Selectmen</i>
SAMUEL D. BEMIS,	
GEORGE WOOD,	

of
Harrisville.

Harrisville, Feb. 29, 1872.

TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT.

RECEIPTS.

1871.	Money in treasury,	\$145 20
Mar. 14,	Received of Milan Harris, money borrowed,	755 95
Apr. 11,	“ of Amos Page, Collector,	200 00
13,	“ of Beacon Light Lodge of Good Templars for 13 Settees,	32 50
June 27,	“ of Selectmen, money borrowed on note of the Town,	70 00
Oct. 19,	“ of Selectmen, money borrowed,	100 00
Received of	State Treasurer, am't of Savings Bank tax due the Town,	413 17
“	of State Treasurer, literary fund,	49 80
“	of Francis Stratton, Collector,	4627 31
“	of Darius Farwell, of collected taxes of Nelson in 1870,	49 56
“	of Darius Farwell, interest on same,	2 87
		<hr/> \$ 6446 36

DISBURSEMENTS.

Darius Farwell, Selectman,	\$ 69 25
Samuel D. Bemis, “	37 50
George Wood, “	35 50

District No. 8,	\$323 78
“ No. 7,	228 03
“ No. 7, Nelson,	161 72
“ No. 10,	139 17
“ No. 9,	131 66
“ No. 6,	52 02
“ No. 3, Nelson,	7 85
“ No. 5, “	5 77
	<hr/>
	\$1050 00

Harvey J. Ware, for plank and repairing sluices and cutting brush,	\$ 7 92
Chauncey Barker, repairing sluice and breaking roads,	2 70
Samuel G. Knight, for plank and labor,	3 22
Elijah W. Towne, for removing tree from highway,	50

J. F. & J. A. Mason, for repairing	"	3 00
Charles E. Townsend, cutting brush on highway,		3 00
Caleb Philbrick, for work on Pottersville bridge,		15 00
Horace W. Smith,	" " "	5 25
Cyrus E. Russell,	" " "	5 00
William Lakin, for hemlock plank,		25 20
Sherman Derby, labor on highway,		3 00
Thomas H. White, work on Pottersville bridge,		7 50
George W. Mason,	" " "	12 50
George O. Colleston,	" " "	1 35
M. Harris' Woolen Co., use of Derrick,		10 00
J. F. & J. A. Mason, work on Pottersville bridge,		10 00
E. G. Philbrick,	" " "	1 00
Alvah Kendall, labor on highway,		1 20
Joseph Eaves, for plank,		3 00
W. W. Seaver, for shovelling snow on highway,		1 05
Samuel D. Bemis, for repairing highway,		2 81
George Wood for work on	"	7 22
Roger S. Derby, for plank and timber for bridge,		32 80
Caleb Philbrick, work on Otis Silver's road,		12 00
Jonas Wight,	" " " "	5 80
Wm. Hodgman,	" " " "	2 00
Corban C. Farwell, plank for highway,		6 34
John S. Gilchrist, for bridge plank,		6 58
Gilman Kendall, for plank and labor on highway,		24 92
James Cotton, for work on Otis Silver's road,		6 00
George Wood,	" " " "	27 20
D. & Corban C. Farwell, work on O. Silver's road,		38 80
" " " use of plow and materials,		4 78
" " " labor on highway in dis. No. 1,		6 00
Benjamin Willard work on highway and bridge,		18 50
Samuel D. Bemis,	" " "	2 08
Aaron Smith,	" " "	7 34
Winslow Royce, work on Otis Silver's road,		14 85
William Lakin, plank and work on bridges,		34 20
Henry Adams, work on highway,		9 36

C. C. Farwell, work on highway,	15 13
John C. Barry, " "	4 73
Winslow Royce, " "	11 14
Jabez B. Townsend, work on highway and cutting brush,	38 34
Gilman Kendall, plank and work on highway,	40 09
Henry H. Stevens, " " "	9 00
Charles J. Smith, work on bridges,	23 71
" " plank,	8 97
Lyman Russell, work,	10 50
Sherman Derby, plank,	2 84
Chauncey Barker, for work on highway,	9 29
William Lakin, for plank for "	5 04
Harvey J. Ware, for labor on "	2 44
Corban C. Farwell, for breaking roads,	4 40
W. W. Seaver, for breaking roads and work on highway,	6 50
Geo. Wood, for labor on highway,	2 20
Samuel G. Knight, for plank for bridge,	3 42
James A. Mason, work on highway and plank,	8 53
	<hr/>
	\$597 35
Paid for working out non-resident Highway Taxes:	
Samuel D. Bemis,	3 50
John S. Gilchrist,	1 55
W. W. Seaver,	2 87
Winslow Royce,	1 12
Nelson Yardley,	2 96
Francis Stratton,	4 61
James A. Mason,	1 55
	<hr/>
	\$18 16

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

David Willard, for Monument Post on Town Line,	\$ 4 00
Geo. Greenword, expenses to Peterboro',	1 50
Chas. Buss & Son, for 1 Safe,	120 00
William Yardley, damage for land taken for Otis Silver's road,	10 00

Geo. T. Beal, damage for land taken for O. Silver's road,	10 00
D. K. Healey, County Treasurer,	864 96
Dexter Derby, Harrisville's share, support of Eliza Smith to April 16, 1871,	25 29
Charles Hayward, Harrisville's share, support of Eliza Smith to October 16, 1871,	24 91
State Treasurer, amount of State Tax,	1500 00
Julius N. Morse, Bill Printing Reports for 1870,	18 75
F. Stratton, on account of abatement of taxes,	22 70
S. L. Randall, School-house Tax, Dist. No. 8,	100 00
Russell H. Kittredge, Harrisville's portion of expense of Samuel Bryant and family,	22 66
Darius Farwell, for Provisions furnished S. A. Seaver, (Refunded,)	14 03
Darius Farwell, for Stationery, &c.,	10 59
" " for Counsel,	3 00
E. Jones & Son, for use of Eagle Hall to March 1, '72,	40 00
John L. Webster, for insufficiency of highway,	4 00
	<hr/>
	\$ 2796 39
	<hr/>
	\$ 6116 51
Total amount of Cash Received,	\$ 6,446 36
Disbursements,	6,116 51
	<hr/>
Leaving Cash in Treasury,	\$ 329 85
Respectfully submitted,	
S. L. RANDALL,	
<i>Town Treasurer.</i>	

This certifies that I have examined the Books of the Treasurer of the Town of Harrisville, and find them to be properly vouched and cast.

CHARLES C. P. HARRIS, *Auditor.*

Harrisville, March 11, 1872.

REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

THE Superintending School Committee of Harrisville respectfully presents to the Town his Annual Report.

A kind Providence has graciously granted our teachers and scholars, the year past, a good measure of health and spared them generally from death. This has permitted our schools to go on without interruption, with but one exception.

Miss EMMA P. Ross began her first term last Summer in district No. 3. She bid fair to make a successful teacher; but sickness obliged her to suspend her school after two weeks, and in a few weeks she was numbered among those who are not.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEES.

No. 1. (8.) STEPHEN L. RANDALL.

" 2. (7.) DAVID WILLARD.

" 3. (7.) ALBERT A. SEAVER.

" 4. (9.) RUEL BRIGHAM.

" 5. (10.) JOSHUA LAKIN.

There was a prospect that Rev. Mr. Palmer would remain and serve you another year, till near the time for the opening of the Summer terms. When it was deter-

mined that he would not be able to serve you, I was appointed by your board of Selectmen, and availed myself of his assistance and advice.

I give you the teachers of the Summer terms, with the dates of opening and closing:

- | | | |
|--------|---|--|
| No. 1. | { | 1st Term, Mrs. Henri J. Robbins, May 1—July 7. |
| | { | 2d “ Miss Emlie Martin, Sept. 4—Nov. 11. |
| No. 2. | { | 1st “ “ Martha Herrick, May 8—June 30. |
| | { | 2d “ “ M. Frances Harding, Aug. 21—Oct. 13. |
| No. 3. | { | Miss Emma P. Ross, May 1—May 16. |
| | { | “ Nellie L. Phillips, May 29—July 13. |
| No. 4. | | Miss Ella I. Morse, May 1—July 1. |
| No. 5. | | “ Ella C. Ware, May 15—July 7. |

Nos. 1 and 2 had each a Fall term, which I have classed with the Summer terms.

Mrs. Robbins, in No. 1, was assisted by one of her pupils, much to the advantage of herself and school.

All of these teachers, with the exception of Miss Ross as before noticed, had had more or less experience in teaching. They were all deemed qualified for their respective schools. All of these schools were visited by me at the opening of the terms and all at the close, with the exception of No. 5. Notice was sent me, but did not reach me till the school had closed. I learn, however, that the district generally were well satisfied with the teacher.

In regard to the rest of the teachers it can be said that they labored with zeal and fidelity in imparting instruction, and the examinations showed that progress had been made.

Your Committee had only one occasion to be dissatisfied with the discipline of the school. This teacher, we learn, had won a good reputation as teacher of schools of a higher grade than this one; but here she found a class of small children which needed more governing than teaching, to which she was unaccustomed.

No. 4, with their experienced teacher, lacked only one thing—scholars. Six scholars are hardly a quorum for a school, though it will do well for a family in these times.

Let us now turn our attention to the Winter Terms. These were taught as follows:

- | | | | |
|--------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------|
| No. 1. | Miss F. H. Nesmith, | December 4—February 9, | 1872. |
| No. 2. | “ Laura I. Griffin, | “ 6—February 9, | “ |
| No. 3. | “ Sarah M. Hardy, | September 25—Dec. 29. | “ |
| No. 4. | “ Ella I. Morse, | November 13—February 2, | “ |
| No. 5. | “ Bell Hutchinson, | “ 13—February 9, | “ |

These schools were all visited at the opening and close, and all gave good satisfaction. The scholars did not all appear so well acquainted with the first principles and rules as is desirable; yet there was evidence of an effort on the part of the teachers to secure a thorough drill.

The order in all cases appeared good at each visit.

It is worthy of note that the close of the Winter school in No. 2 showed a great improvement in order over the close of the term last winter.

There was an attempt made to grade the Fall and Winter terms in No. 1, but it was not wholly successful. It was, however, well divided, and the Winter term of the more advanced scholars made a good exhibition of talent and proficiency at the close. It is to be hoped that they will yet succeed in grading that school.

A private school of several weeks was taught by Miss Nellie L. Phillips, composed of scholars who attended the Fall term.

We have cause to congratulate ourselves on our good fortune in the selection of teachers and the success of our schools the past year.

In regard to the length of the schools and the attendance, I will refer you to the tables appended. There appears to be a slight increase in the percentage of attendance over last year.

I called the attention of the scholars and teachers to

three points, in my visits to the several schools, viz. : Their Deportment, their Habits of Study and their Rank of Scholarship.

Space cannot be afforded for remarks upon these points, but our schools and scholars have showed a fair marking with some improvement. I think it would be well to keep the points before the minds of our schools, and excite in them an ambition, and instruct them upon these points that they rise individually, and our schools may be raised to a higher standard.

I wish particularly to call your attention to

TEXT-BOOKS AND STUDIES.

This is the most important and yet the most difficult matter to manage in our schools. It has been a complaint everywhere that we have too many different text books and too many classes in our schools.

It has been the effort of school committees to introduce the new and improved text-books and get out the old ones so as to keep pace with this age of improvement, and at the same time produce a uniformity. The law has given the committee all the power in this matter, which can be asked for; but unless there is harmony of views and cooperation on the part of parents, scholars and teachers, it cannot be successfully accomplished.

In the last annual report, you will find these remarks: "The present Arithmetics, used here for more than a generation, should give place to a series better adapted to the wants of the schools. Scholars and teachers would rejoice at the change. Either Walton's or Eaton's series are, in our judgment, immeasurably superior to the present books. Indeed, almost any change must be for the better." In accordance with this judgment, and by the advice and assistance of the chairman of the board last year, I introduced Walton's series the past year. But I am sorry to say that our judgment last year was not sustained.

Scholars and teachers did *not* rejoice at the change; but, on the contrary, generally joined in a dislike to the Practical Arithmetic. I endeavored to insist upon its use by mild appeals, but in vain. Some of the scholars, joined by their parents, refused to accept it. I did not think it best to insist upon its entire use; being alone, I waived the matter for the present.

I am confident that one great cause of this failure is that the teachers were not familiar with the book. Had all of our teachers received a thorough drill in it, and understood its peculiarities, I am confident that it would have given better satisfaction. The result is that the number of text-books is multiplied instead of diminished.

Many of the advanced scholars in arithmetic, are introducing Greenleaf's National Arithmetic. So we have Adams's, Walton's and Greenleaf's and a few of some other kinds.

It is desirable that committees should be assisted in, if not relieved wholly from, the responsible duties of selecting or throwing out text-books. It seems to your Committee that through the agency of our State Normal School a system of text-books might be recommended throughout the State.

It seems to me that our scholars should be confined to a prescribed course of study. It is not proper, perhaps, to confine them to the common English branches; but shall we allow any branch which a scholar may select? Is there not danger that our schools become crowded with these higher studies, and some of the lower ones be neglected, or the less advanced scholars be deprived of the attention due them? It seems to your Committee that after a scholar has become proficient in a text-book prescribed for common schools, he ought not to be allowed to take a text-book of a higher grade; but, if he or she

can sustain a good examination in the text-books designed for common schools, then let that branch be laid aside and some other branch be taken up.

I think our reading books are badly regulated. There is no branch of education which our scholars make a poorer exhibition in, than reading. Yet we have the whole series of reading books, including that number which was designed for High Schools and Academies.

I must omit remarks upon School-Houses and out-buildings, though they deserve attention.

In conclusion, permit me to call your attention to the importance of parental cooperation. This has been given to a good degree, in the attention which parents have given to their scholars and the schools. Let each parent be careful how they listen to reports prejudicial to teachers or schools. Let them not be too hasty or ready to defend their own children against the teacher.

Our educational and religious institutions are the safety and glory of our free Republic. Let us prize and cherish them. As we are beginning our history as a town, let us give evidence that we are heartily interested in that which contributes to our virtue and intelligence.

G. S. SMITH.

P. S.—This is condensed from the report read at the Town Meeting, March 12.

TABLE.

		No. Weeks.	No. Scholars.	Percent. of Attendance.	Reading and Spelling.	Arithmetic.	Grammar.	Geography.	Penmanship.	Composition.	History.	Physiology.	Book-Keeping.	Other Studies.	Tardiness.	Visits.
SUMMER.																
No. 1.	1st Term.	10	63	83	63	46	12	15	17	0	0	0	0	2	42	27
	2d Term.	10	41	90	41	21	0	8	22	2	0	0	0	0	31	45
No. 2.	1st Term.	8	36	99	36	35	9	17	35	0	0	0	0	3	—	—
	2d Term.	8	38	81	37	31	10	18	10	9	0	0	0	0	115	12
No. 3.		9	17	74	16	14	6	7	11	5	4	0	0	1	41	19
No. 4.		9	6	98	6	5	3	3	5	5	0	0	1	1	4	12
No. 5.		8	11	98	11	8	2	6	8	0	0	0	0	1	6	32
WINTER.																
No. 1.		10	32	89	32	32	25	22	15	6	0	0	2	7	32	88
No. 2.		10	46	89	46	41	21	22	22	0	3	0	6	9	70	38
No. 3.		14	19	85	19	15	12	10	13	9	0	0	3	4	32	14
No. 4.		12	12	87	12	11	4	6	10	11	2	1	0	0	1	32
No. 5.		12	16	85	16	14	6	6	14	13	0	0	2	1	9	33

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